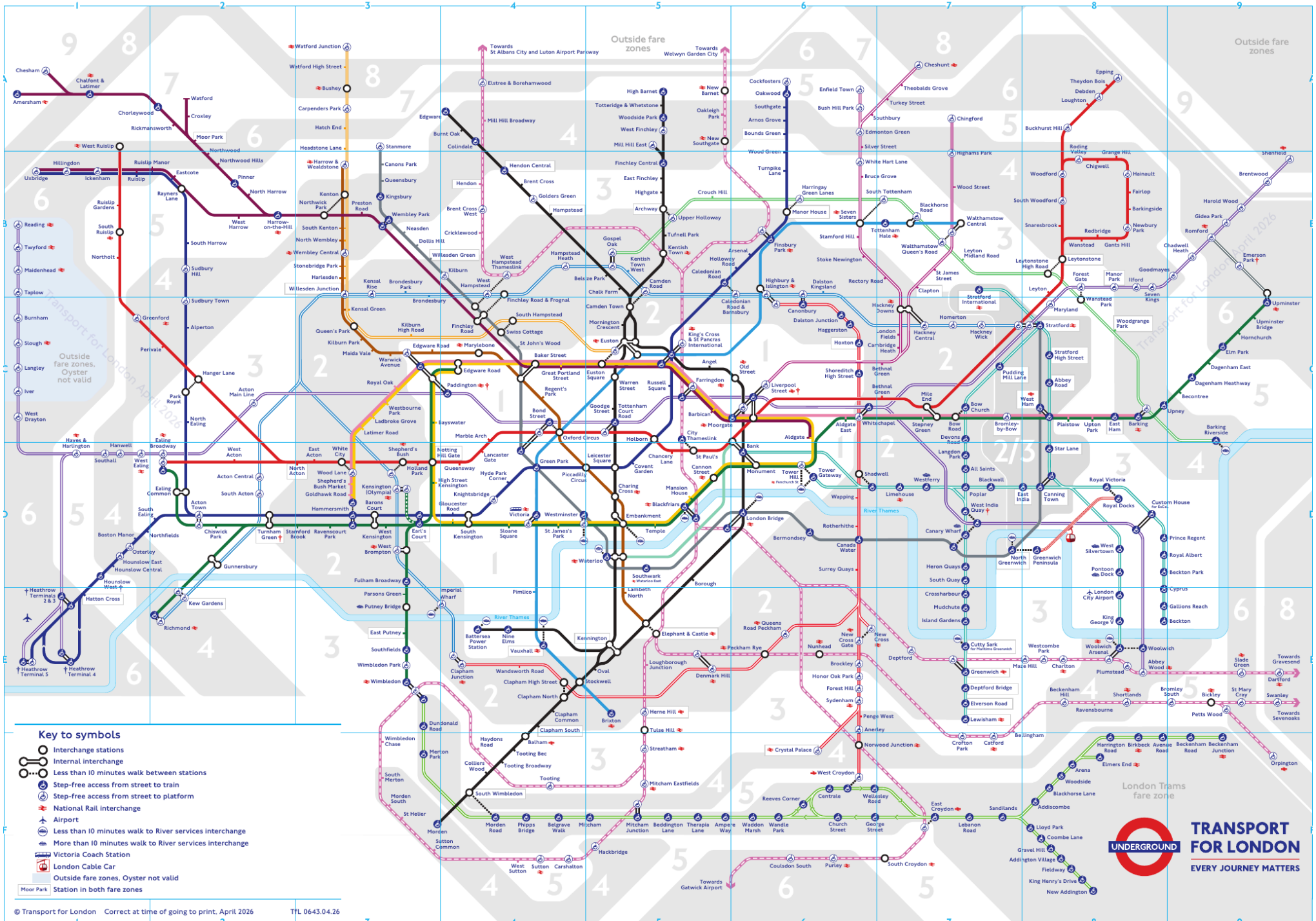
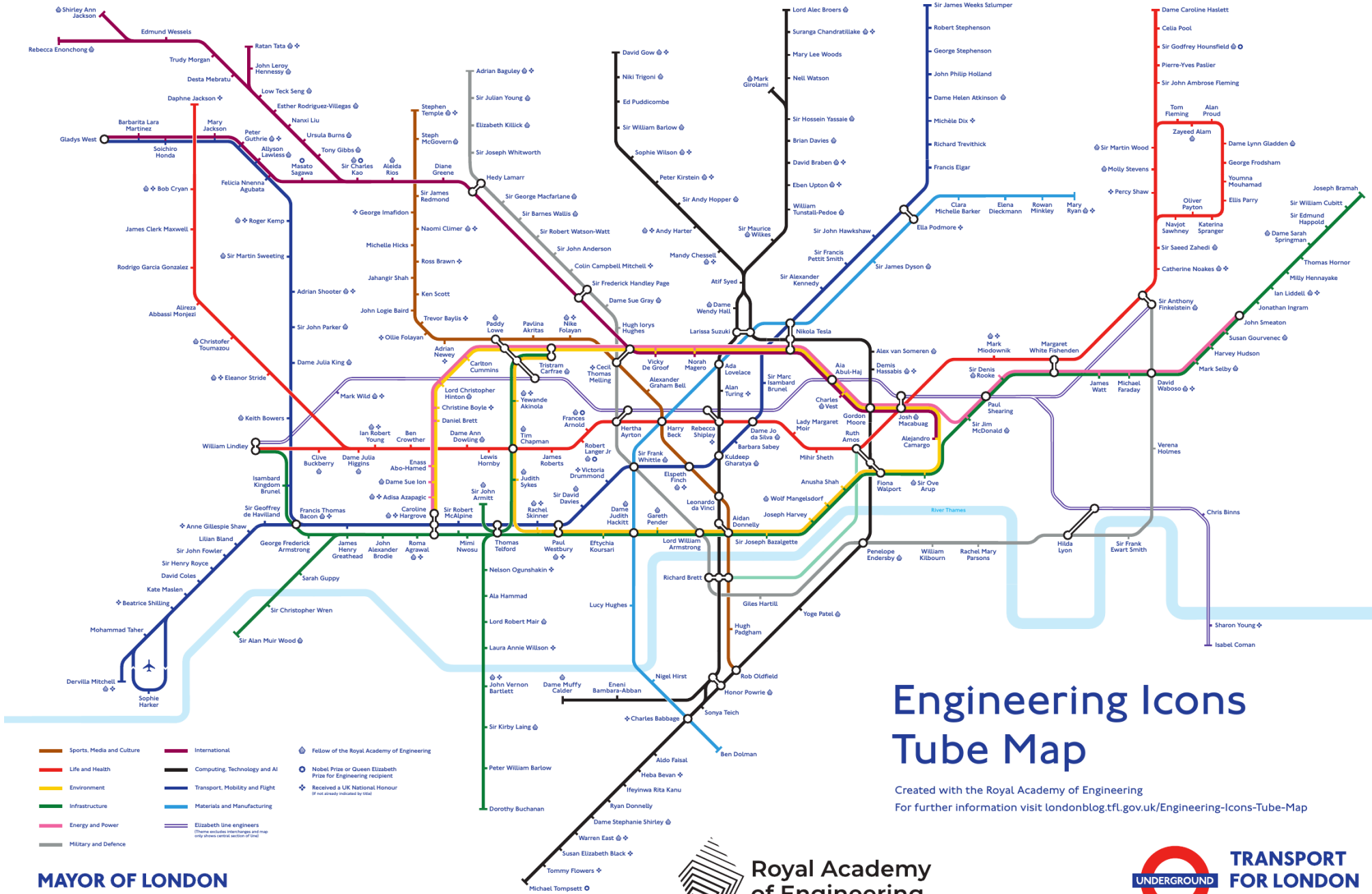
Victoria Drummond
Marine Engineer




Outside fare zones
Outside fare zones
Outside fare zones, Oyster not valid
Transport for London April 2026
Transport for London April 2026
London Trams fare zone
River Thames
River Thames
Key to symbols
Interchange stations
Internal interchange
Less than 10 minutes walk between stations
Step-free access from street to train
Step-free access from street to platform
National Rail interchange
Airport
Less than 10 minutes walk to River services interchange
More than 10 minutes walk to River services interchange
Victoria Coach Station
London Cable Car
Outside fare zones, Oyster not valid
Moor Park
Station in both fare zones
© Transport for London
Correct at time of going to print, April 2026
TFL 0643.04.26
UNDERGROUND
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS



Engineering Icons Tube Map

Created with the Royal Academy of Engineering

For further information visit londonblog.tfl.gov.uk/Engineering-Icons-Tube-Map

MAYOR OF LONDON

© Transport for London
This diagram is an evolution of the original design conceived in 1931 by Harry Beck
Engineering Icons Tube Map, November 2023
Produced by Elspeth Cuerden (RAEng), Rebecca Lindsay (RAEng) and Ben Hellawell (TfL)

Royal Academy of Engineering

UNDERGROUND
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS


Lord Christopher Hinton
Christine Boyle
Daniel Brett
Dame Ann Dowling
Lewis Hornby
Yewande Akinola
Tim Chapman
Judith Sykes
Sir John Armitt
Sir Robert McAlpine
Mimi Nwosu
Thomas Telford
Rachel Skinner
Frances Arnold
James Roberts
Robert Langer Jr
Victoria Drummond
Sir David Davies
Paul Westbury
Eftychia Koursari
Graham Bell
Hertha Ayrton
Harry Beck
Rebecca Shipley
Alan Turing
Sir Frank Whittle
Elspeth Finch
Leonardo da Vinci
Dame Judith Hackitt
Gareth Pender
Lord William Armstrong

Forty years, forty-nine voyages

- Childhood
- Apprenticeship
- First ships
  - First women with Board of Trade engineers certificate
- Chiefs examination 31 attempts
- War Years
- Chief at last
- Legacy

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

"REJOICE AT BIRTH OF LITTLE DAUGHTER"

Queen Victoria, by telegram, October 1894, page 27

> "At the time, the Queen was the only person who had rejoiced at my birth.
> Everyone else had wanted a boy."
>
> *page 27*

> "That child has neat fingers. Some day I will teach her to turn. She might even make an engineer."
>
> *Lady Amherst, her grandmother, "known for her wood carving skill" page 25*



Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

Megginch Castle

- Carse of Gowrie, between Perth and Dundee
- Three sisters: Jean, Victoria, Frances
- The sawmill workshop at Didlington: nuts, bolts and a chalk diagram
- Aged eleven, at Morton's works in Errol: *"How can I learn to be an engineer and go to sea?"*
- 1906: the family fortune gambled away. *"The whole solid background of my childhood vanished as if it had never been."*





Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

"I'm going to be a marine engineer"

Her twenty-first birthday, 14 October 1915. Her father:
"Now you are 21, you can choose your own career."

> "Every one's apprenticeship days are much the same. One is always black,
> hungry and tired by the end of each day."
>
> *page 55*

- Northern Garage, Perth, from 18 October 1916
- Evening classes, Dundee Technical College
- Caledon Shipbuilding, Dundee, 1918 to 1922



Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

"I will give you a ship"

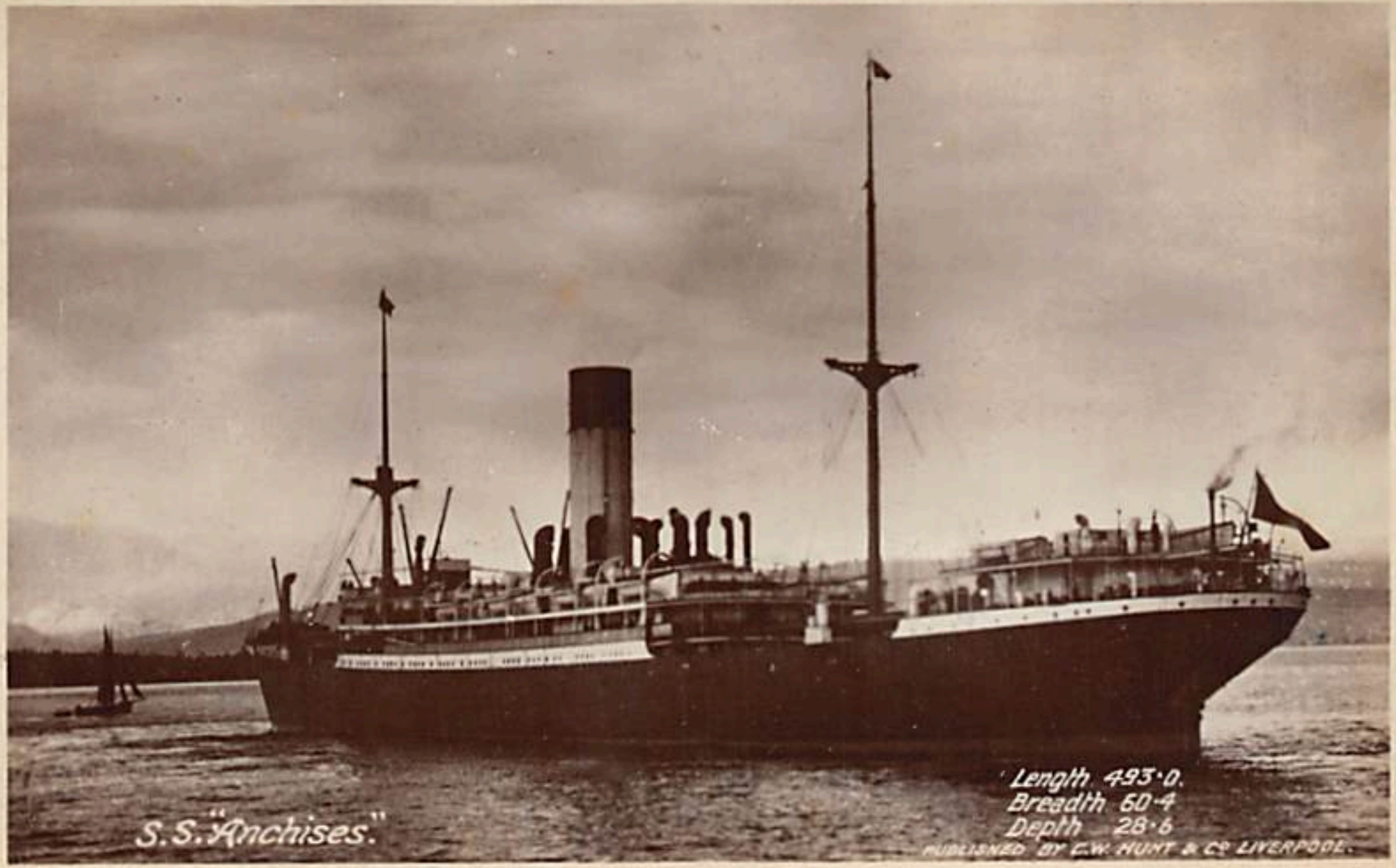
> "Let me know when you have finished your apprenticeship, and I promise you, I will give you a ship."
>
> *Mr Wirtley of Blue Funnel, Dundee West station, page 66*



- 1922: laid off by Caledon in the slump
- The night train to Liverpool; Mr Wirtley has died, and Blue Funnel keeps his promise

> "Excuse me, sir, but I forgot to ask where she is going?"
> "Australia!" was the reply.
>
> *page 77*

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)


S.S."Anchises."
Length 493·0.
Breadth 60·4
Depth 28·6
PUBLISHED BY C.W. HUNT & Co LIVERPOOL.

10th Eng



SS Anchises

Glasgow
Liverpool
London
Las Palmas
Port Said
Ascension
St Helena
Durban
Cape Town
Chin–Wang–Tu
Tsing–Tao
Shanghai
Hong Kong
Singapore
Albany
Adelaide
Brisbane
Sydney
Melbourne
Hobart

Voyages, 1922 – 1924

out ····· *home*

- 1 Aug 1922 to Glasgow
- 2 Sep 1922 – Jan 1923 to Brisbane
- 3 Feb 1923 – Jun 1923 to Brisbane
- 4 Jun 1923 – Nov 1923 to Brisbane
- 5 Dec 1923 – Apr 1924 to Brisbane
- 6 from May 1924 to Chin–Wang–Tu

Tenth Engineer, SS *Anchises*, 1922

- Blue Funnel Line, coal burner, 24 fires, ten pounds a month
- Glasgow to Cape Town, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane

> "You must find it hot working in that, but I suppose you wear white
> linen in the engine room!"
>
> *a lady passenger, page 82*

> "No one ever thought I would stick it out, but I did."
>
> *page 92*





Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

The Hedgehog

- Five more voyages in the *Anchises*, 1923 to 1924
- Mr Quayle, the Second Engineer: the closest friend of her working life

> "Between Cape Town and Adelaide Miss Drummond attacked the Second Engineer and hit him in the engine room. You will be put in irons and tried in Australia."
>
> *the Chief's mock log entry, page 95*

- 1924: east to Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai; her father dies

> "I only fainted three times from the heat. All the same I did not miss my watch."
>
> *page 107*

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)



Attacks and injuries

Kind	All	Aboard	Ashore, on a voyage	Not on a voyage
Injury	41	30	0	11
Illness	21	15	1	5
Assault	19	4	11	4
Harassment	14	13	0	1
Enemy action	12	12	0	0
Events	**105**	**72**	**12**	**21**

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

The first certificate

October 1926: Second Engineer's certificate, at the third attempt. The first woman in Britain to hold a Board of Trade certificate as a marine engineer.

Blue Funnel would not take her back:

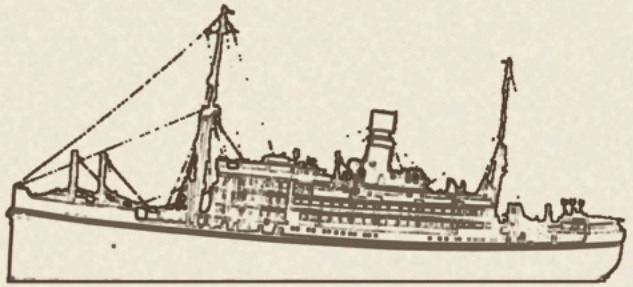
> "I suppose they feared a scandal."
>
> *page 112*

British India Line: Fifth Engineer, TSS *Mulbera*, 1927 to 1928.



Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

5th Eng



TSS Mulbera

Dundee
Middlesbrough
London
Hamburg
Antwerp
Plymouth
Marseille
Messina
Malta
Port Said
Port Sudan
Aden
Socotra
Calcutta
Madras
Colombo
Mombasa
Zanzibar
Beira

Voyages, 1927 – 1928

out ····· home

7 Apr 1927 – Jul 1927
to Beira

8 Jul 1927 – Nov 1927
to Calcutta

9 Nov 1927 – Feb 1928
to Calcutta

10 Apr 1928 – Jun 1928
to Calcutta

11 Sep 1928 – Dec 1928
to Calcutta

"Can you mend it?"

> "What are you?"
>
> "An Engineer Officer of this ship."
>
> "But can you do it? Can you mend it?"
>
> "That is what I am here for."
>
> *Colonel Madras, 1928, page 135*

April 1928: the Hedgehog dies at sea.

> "You are never down until you say it yourself."
>
> *page 140*



Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

Thirty-one times

- October 1929: Board of Trade examination for Chief Engineer. Failed.
- 1930: failed. Then failed "with the utmost regularity".

> "If only I could do a perfect paper, then they would not be able to fail me."
>
> *page 155*

> "Mr Pemberton, one of the examiners, admitted that it was a question of sex. They would not pass me because I was a woman."
>
> *page 161*

- The Thirties: goldfish, car repairs, trade fairs. Vienna, March 1938.

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

Adolf Hitler, Vienna, 3 pm, 14 March 1938





Voyages, 1940 - 1940

out ····· *home*

12 Mar 1940 - Jul 1940

····· to Haifa

2nd Eng



SS Har Zion

London

Antwerp

Marseille

Lisbon

Gibraltar

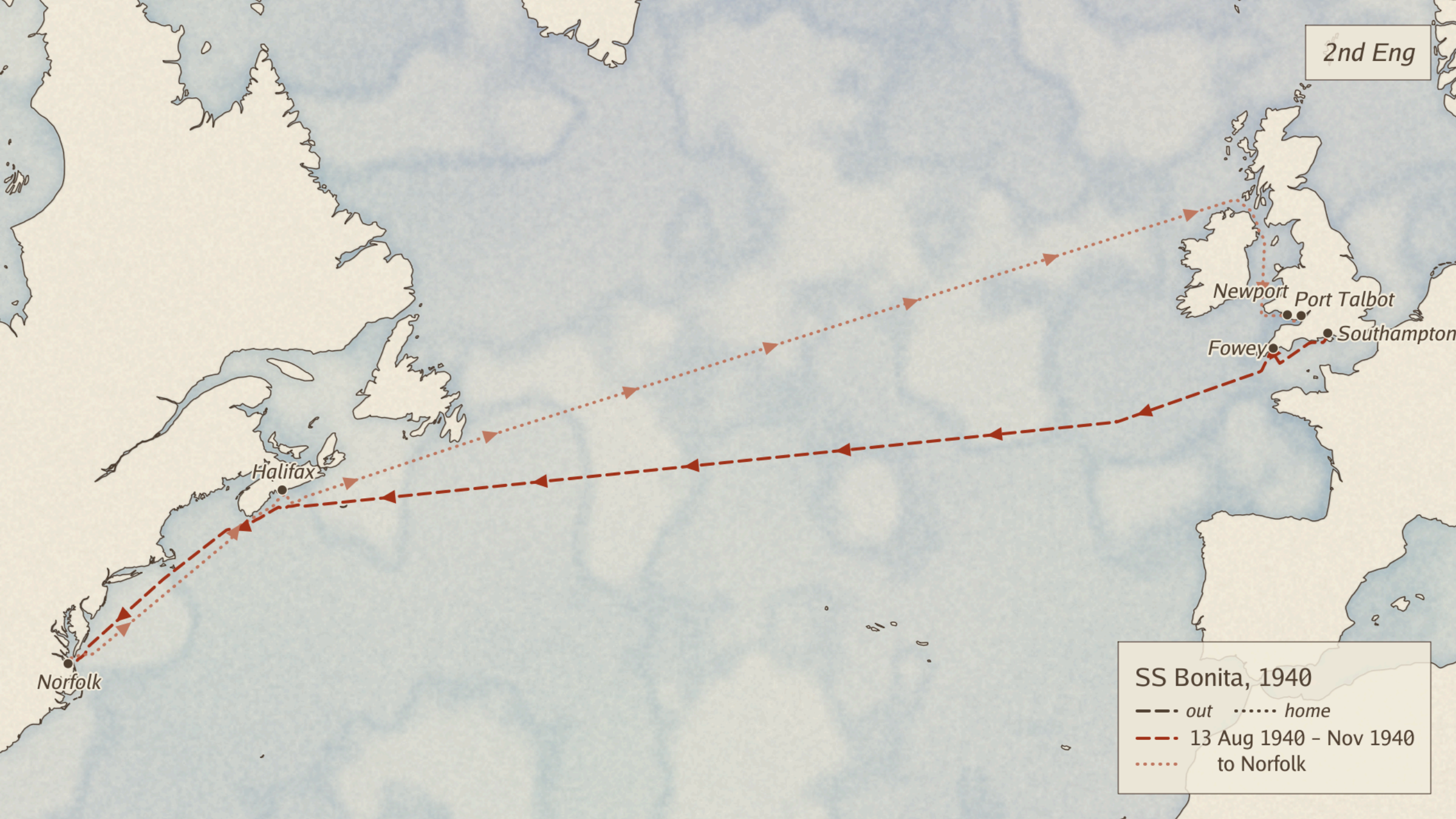
Casablanca

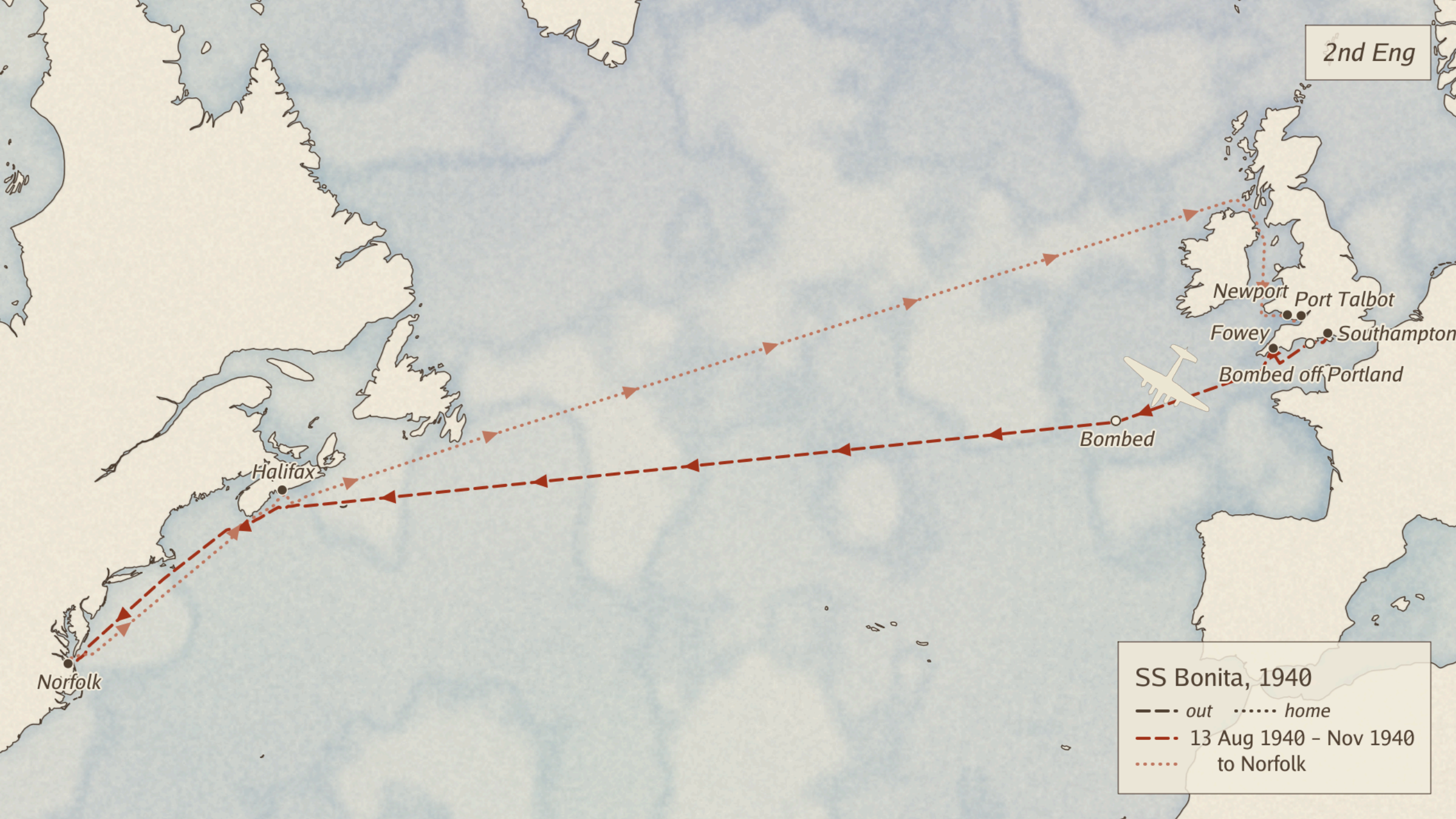
Beirut

Haifa

Alexandria

Port Said


2nd Eng
Newport
Port Talbot
Southampton
Fowey
Halifax
Norfolk
SS Bonita, 1940
out
home
13 Aug 1940 – Nov 1940
to Norfolk


2nd Eng
Newport
Port Talbot
Fowey
Southampton
Bombed off Portland
Bombed
Halifax
Norfolk
SS Bonita, 1940
out
home
13 Aug 1940 – Nov 1940
to Norfolk

SS *Bonita*, Sunday 25 August 1940

- Panamanian flag, china clay, unescorted, 300 miles out
- 8.55 am: a four-engined bomber, four passes, 25 bombs, 35 minutes
- Voice pipe gone, water-service pipe fractured

> "'Get out,' I shouted. The ship must be doomed, I knew that now. My duty
> was to keep the engines going as long as they would turn."
>
> *page 187*

Nine knots became twelve and a half.



Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

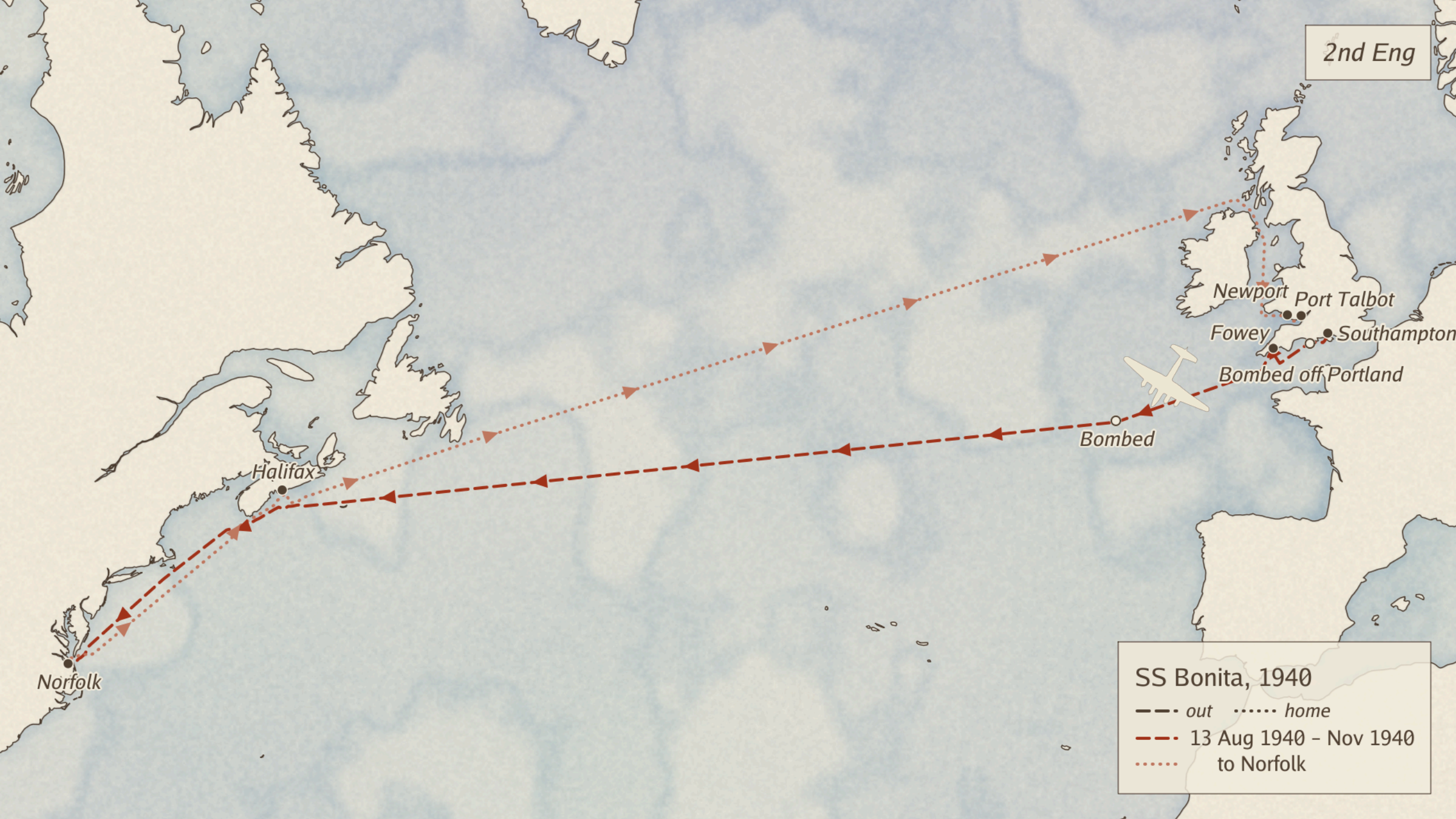
"You must never drive them"

> "Oh, I just talk nicely to them. You can coax or lead engines to do what you want, but you must never drive them."
>
> *to the Mate, page 189*

> "She gave them a chance for their lives and stayed alone where she knew she had none."
>
> *the Mate's diary, page 189*

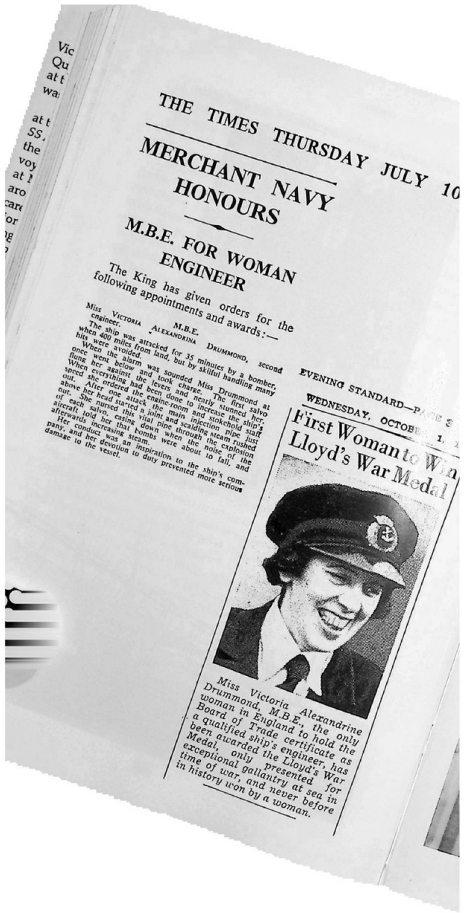

BONITA




2nd Eng
Newport
Port Talbot
Fowey
Southampton
Bombed off Portland
Bombed
Halifax
Norfolk
SS Bonita, 1940
out
home
13 Aug 1940 – Nov 1940
to Norfolk

The results

- July 1941: MBE.
- September 1941: Lloyd's War Medal for Bravery at Sea.
- A Canteen for people of lambeth
- An ambulance for Lambeth


THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 10

MERCHANT NAVY HONOURS

M.B.E. FOR WOMAN ENGINEER

The King has given orders for the following appointments and awards:—

EVENING STANDARD—P

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBE

First Woman to W

Lloyd's War Medal

Miss Victoria Alexandrine Drummond, M.B.E., the only woman in England to hold the Board of Trade certificate as a qualified ship's engineer, has been awarded the Lloyd's War Medal, only presented for exceptional gallantry at sea in time of war, and never before in history won by a woman.

> "Nobody seemed to want me I thought. But Lloyds of London did."
>
> *page 202*

Desk job from the ministry

Her letter, 1941, after 31 failed examinations, asking for an oral:

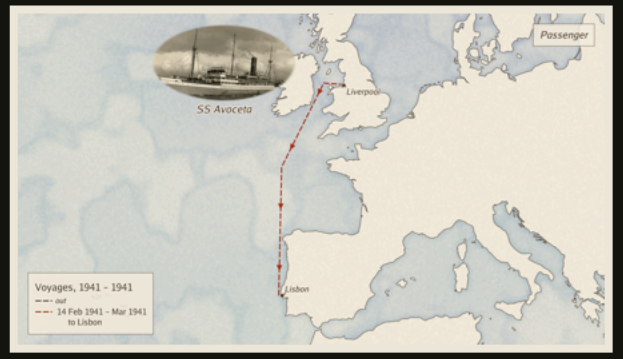
> "I would rather go down with a Chief's certificate than with a Second's."
>
> *page 197*

The Ministry of Shipping:

> "Your talents would be equally well employed, for example, in the training of women as assistant engineers ashore."
>
> *page 197*

Then: *Czikos* attacked by a Condor; round the world in *Perseus*; the tanker *Karabagh* on the D-Day run; VE Day at Antwerp with 10,000 tons of aviation spirit.

The wartime ships, 1941 to 1943



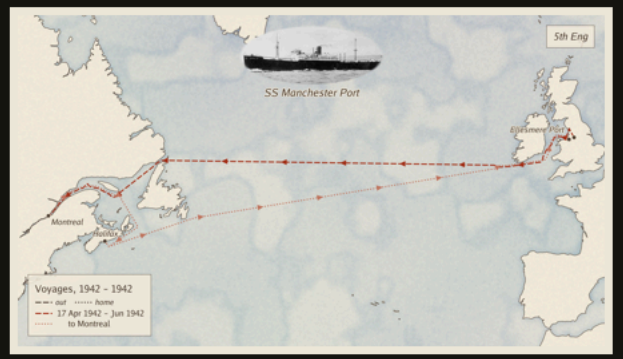
1 SS Avoceta, 1941



2 SS Czikos, 1941



3 SS Auk, 1941 – 1942



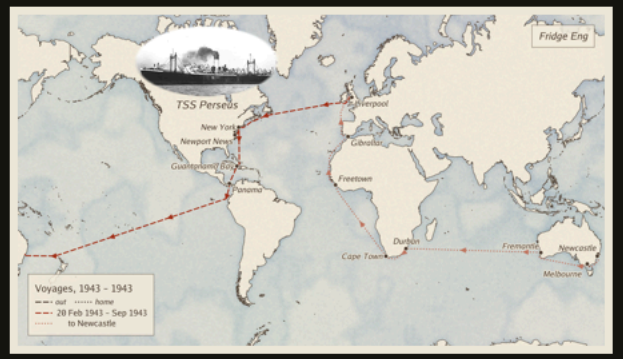
4 SS Manchester Port, 1942



5 SS Elizabeth Lensen, 1942



6 SS Danae II, 1942



7 TSS Perseus, 1943

Voyages, 1944 - 1946

out ..... home

21 May 1944
to Onega

22 Jun 1944 - Sep 1944
to Normandy

23 May 1945 - Jun 1945
to Kiel

24 Jun 1945 - Feb 1946
to Abadan



MV Karabagh

Asst, 4th, then 3rd Eng

Onega

Grangemouth

Newport

Kiel

Liverpool

Portsmouth

Antwerp

Normandy

Bouches du Rhone

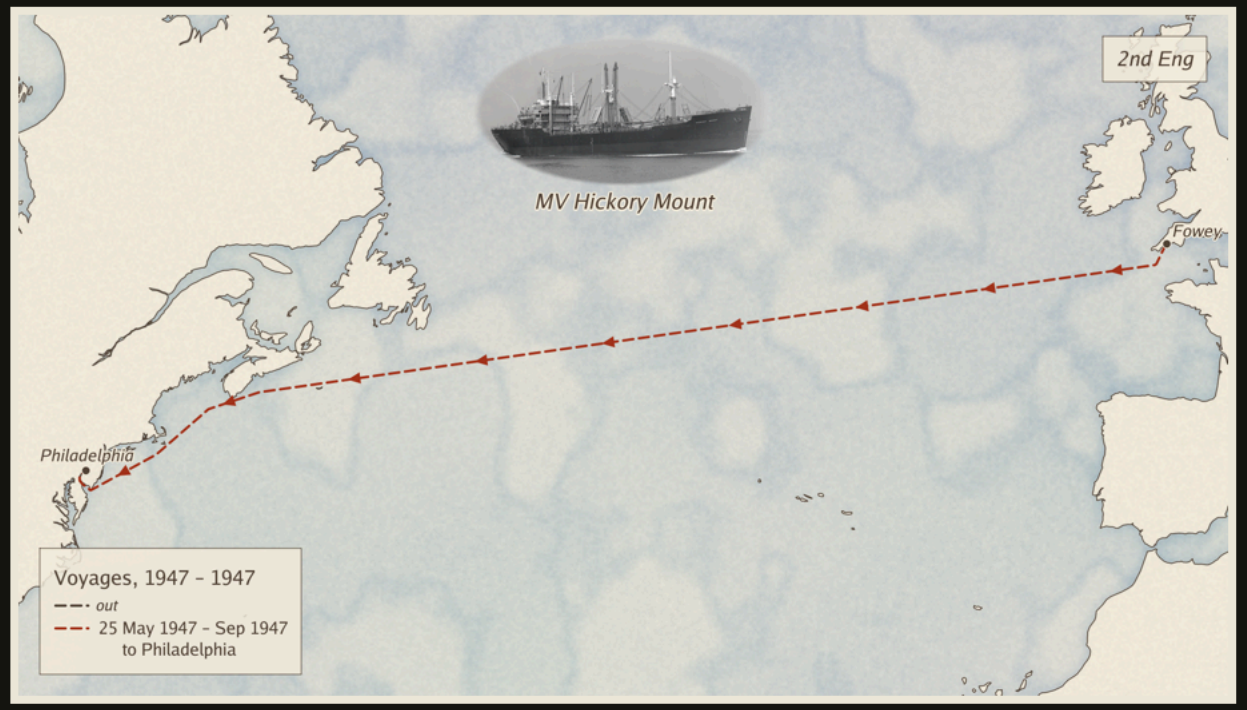
Houston

Haifa

Abadan

Port Said

After the war, 1947 to 1948



1 MV Hickory Mount, 1947



2 MV Bancinu, 1948

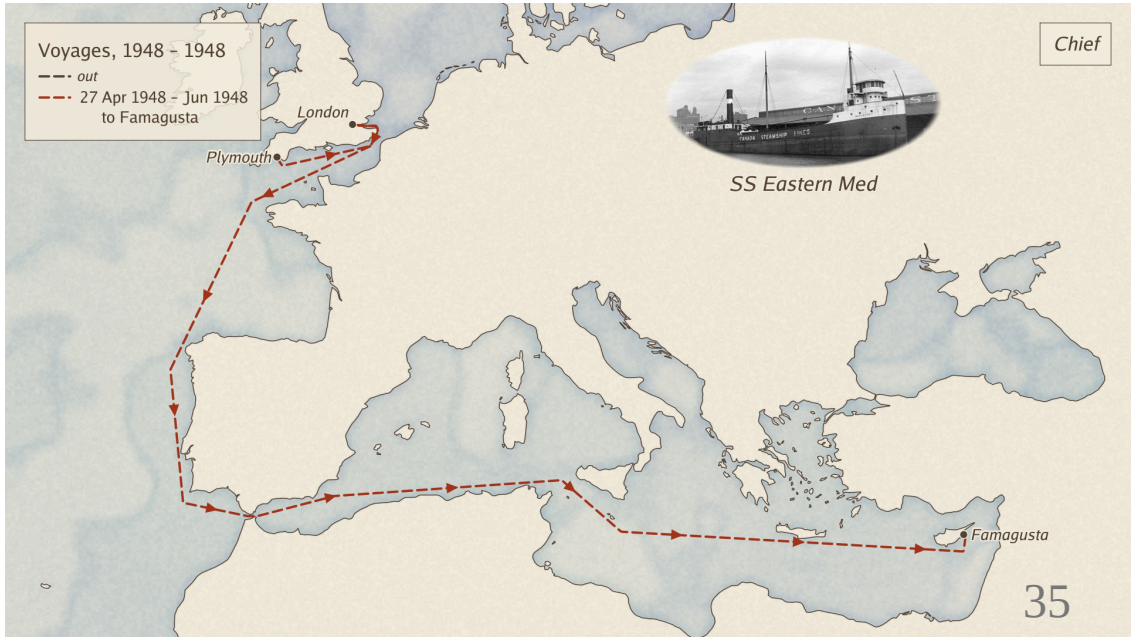
Chief at last 1948

- 25 April 1948: Chief Engineer, *Eastern Med*, "a rotten old tub, built in 1909"
- *Elsie Beth* to the White Sea; *Theems* to Malta
- 31 January 1953: Chief of the *Markab*, 10,000 tons, Panamanian flag

> "The excitement of going through the Suez Canal as Chief Engineer of a
> 10,000 ton boat, something I had wished for all my life."
>
> *page 243*

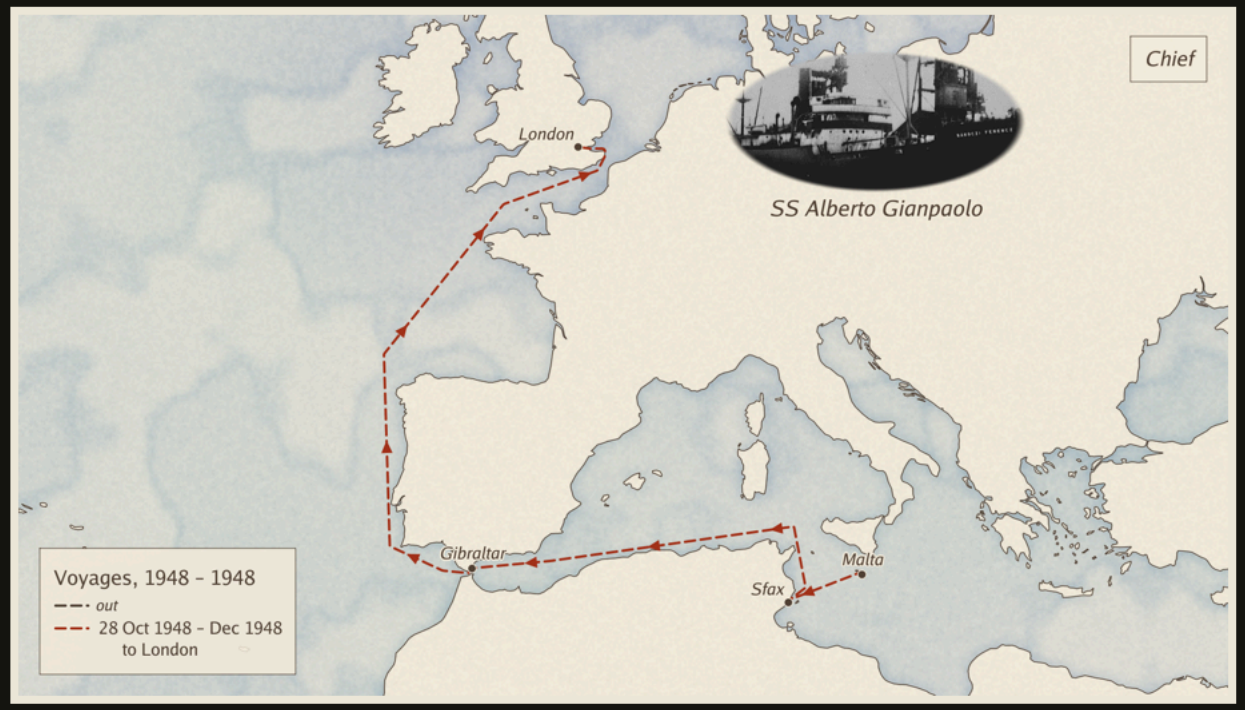
Paid £64 a month. Her Second Engineer: £100.



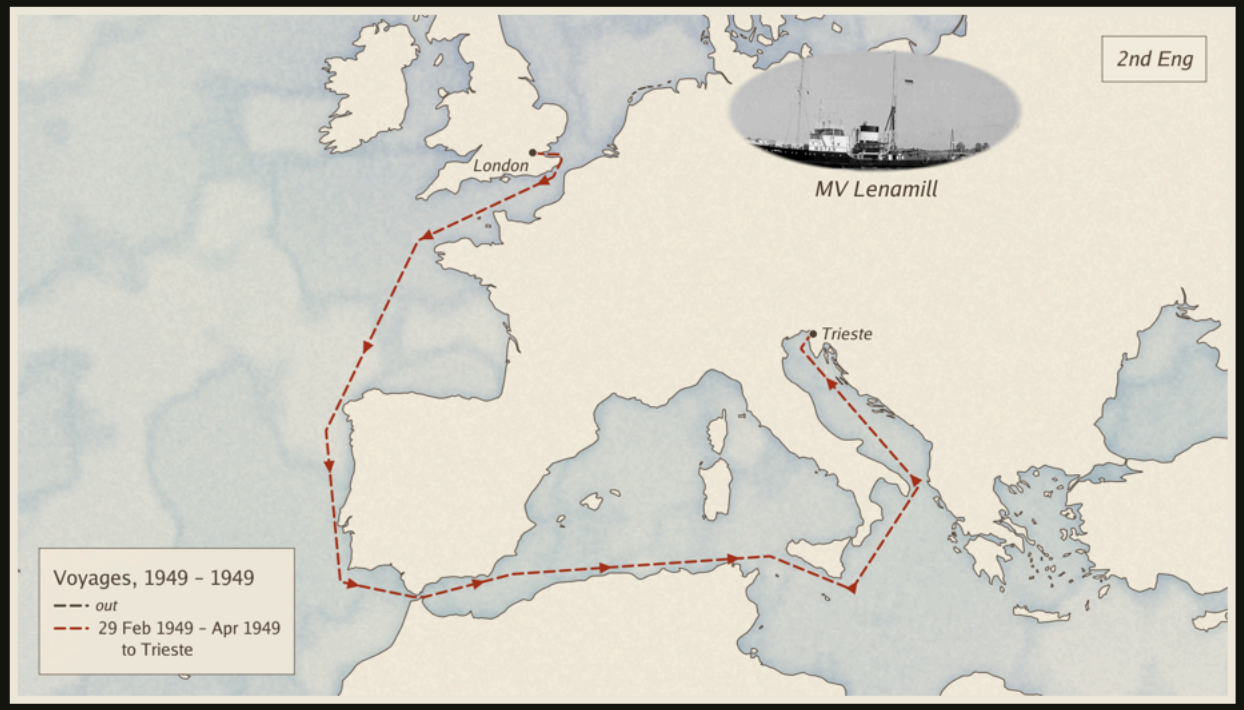


Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

After the war, 1948 to 1949



1 SS Alberto Gianpaolo, 1948



2 MV Lenamill, 1949

Chief



SS Elsie Beth

Onega

Trondheim

Alesund

Dublin

Hull

London

Voyages, 1949 - 1949

out home

30 Aug 1949 - Dec 1949

to Onega





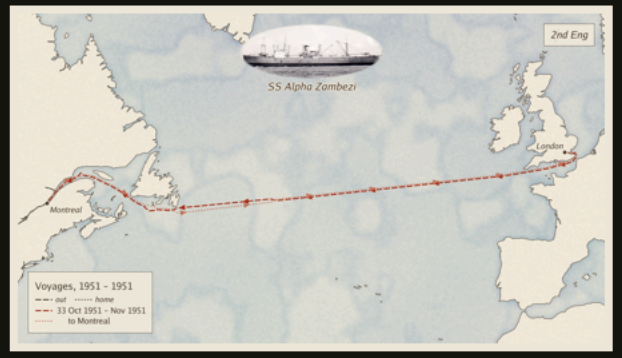
After the war, 1950 to 1957



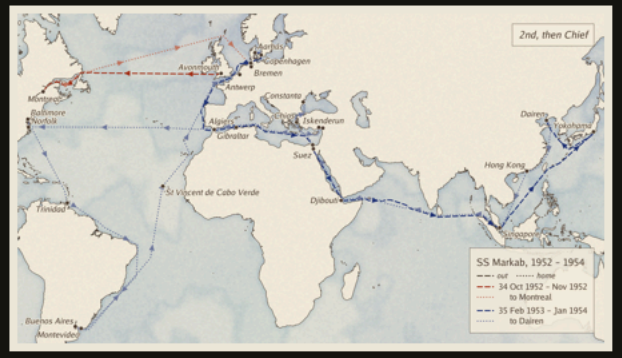
1 SS Canford, 1950



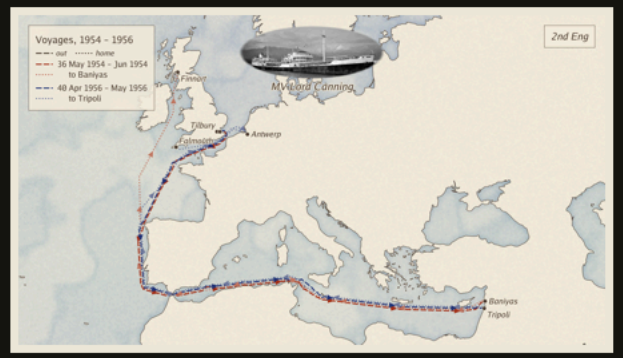
2 SS Theems, 1951



3 SS Alpha Zambezi, 1951



4 SS Markab, 1952 - 1954



5 MV Lord Canning, 1954 - 1956



6 MV Blythe Trader, 1954



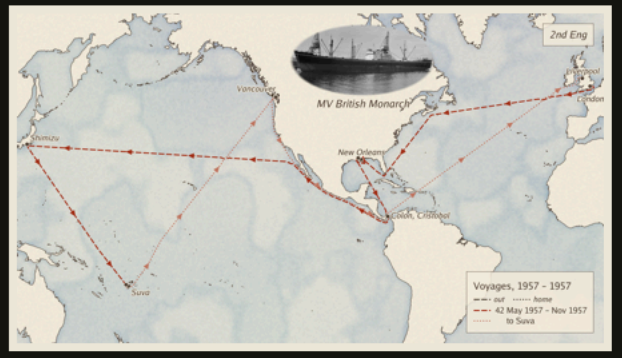
7 MV Dundalk Bay, 1955



8 MV Rampart, 1956



9 SS Concha, 1956



10 MV British Monarch, 1957

Voyages, 1958 – 1958

out

43 May 1958 – Jul 1958
to Izmir
home by Orient Express

Chief



MY Adventuress

Southampton

Gibraltar

Ibiza

Palma

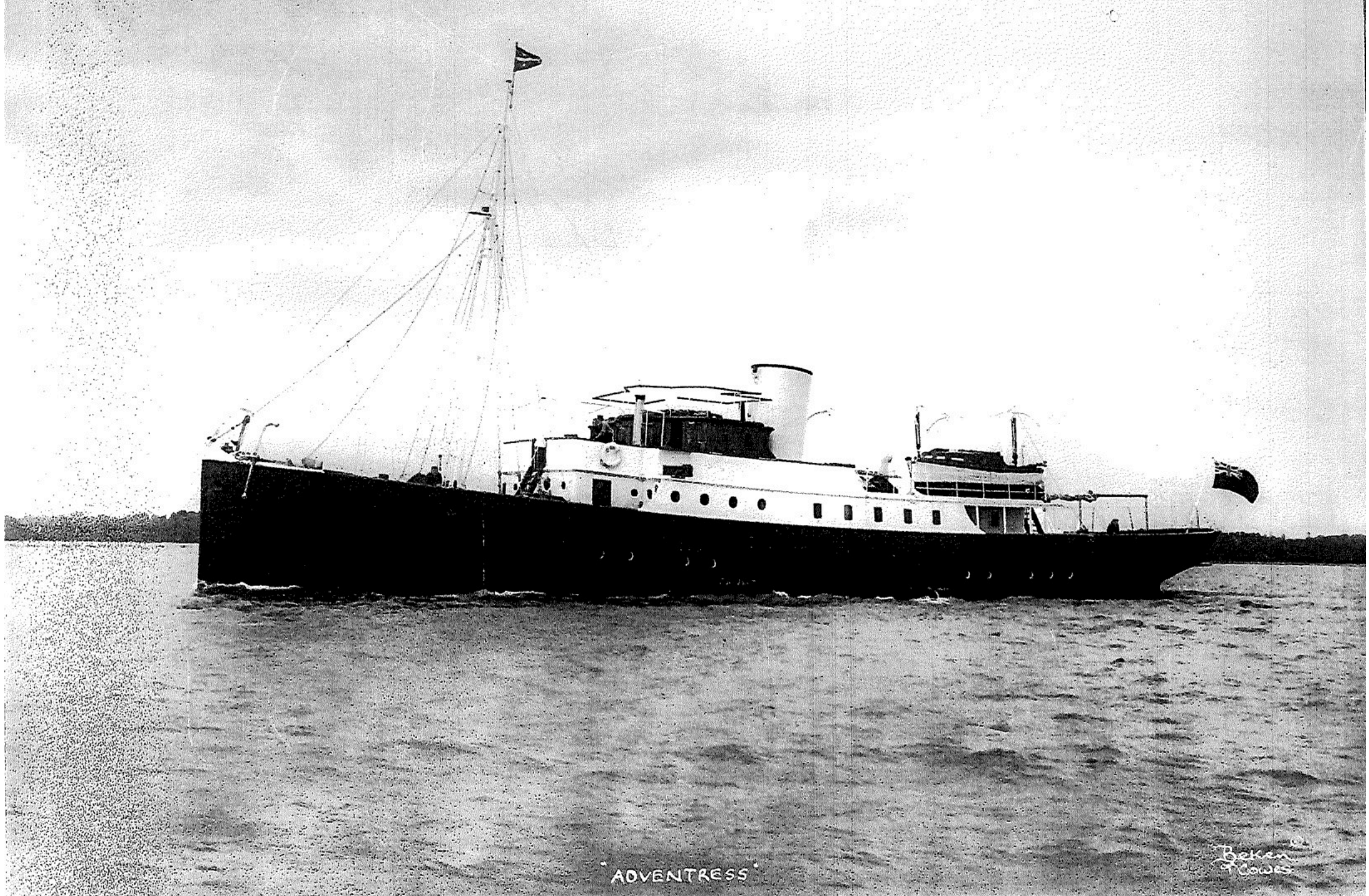
Adrift

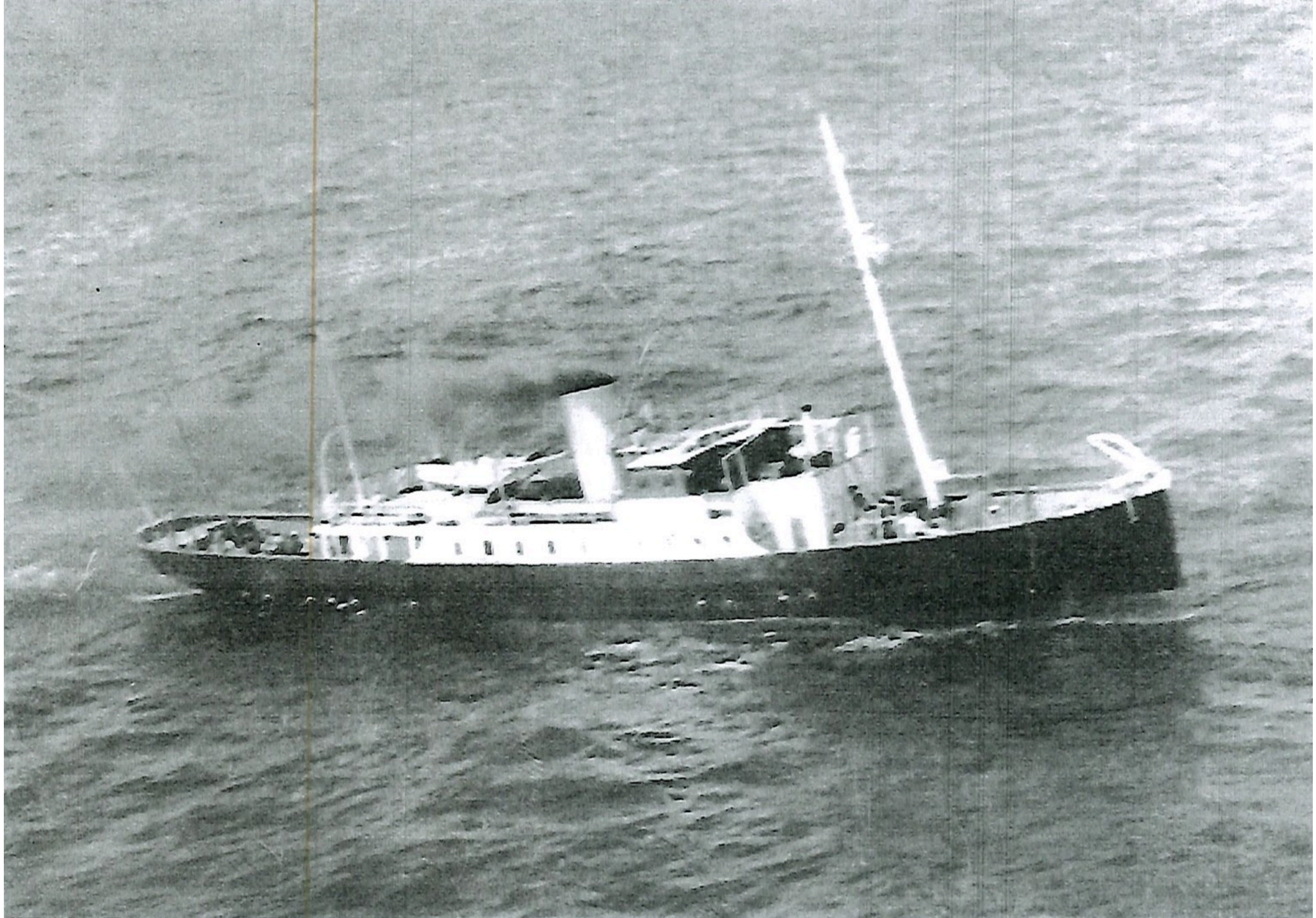
Malta

Melos

Chios

Izmir


"ADVENTRESS"
Beken & Sons





Voyages, 1958 – 1958

out

43 May 1958 – Jul 1958
to Izmir
home by Orient Express

Chief



MY Adventuress

Southampton

Gibraltar

Ibiza

Palma

Adrift

Malta

Melos

Chios

Izmir

The China years, 1959 to 1962

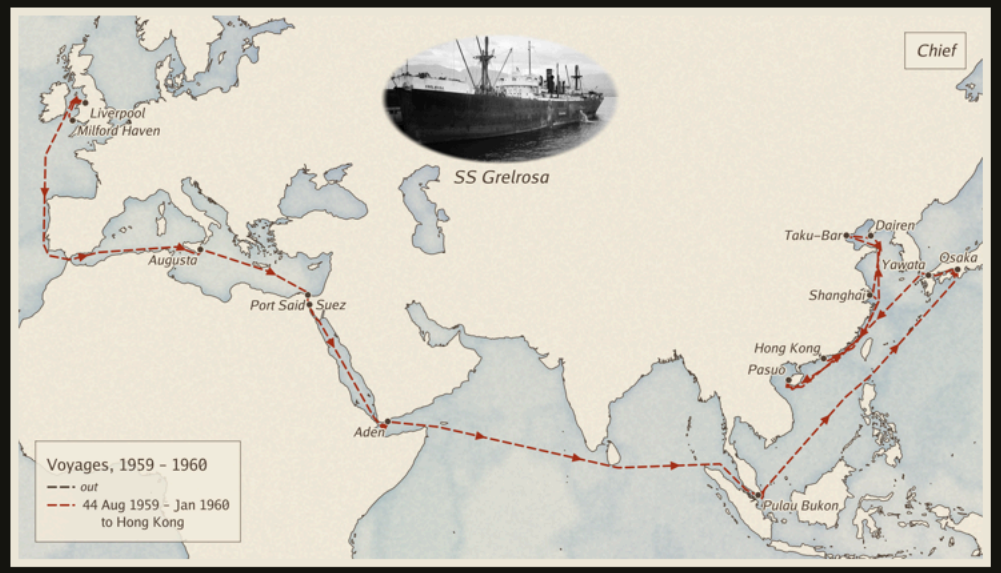
- 1959, aged 64: Chief of SS *Grelrosa*, Jeb-Shun Shipping, Hong Kong
- Fire in the hold at sea, March 1960
- SS *Shun Fung*, "the happiest ship"; Typhoon Alice, May 1961

> "I sat at the head of the table surrounded by my Chinese engineers; I felt very proud."
>
> *page 299*

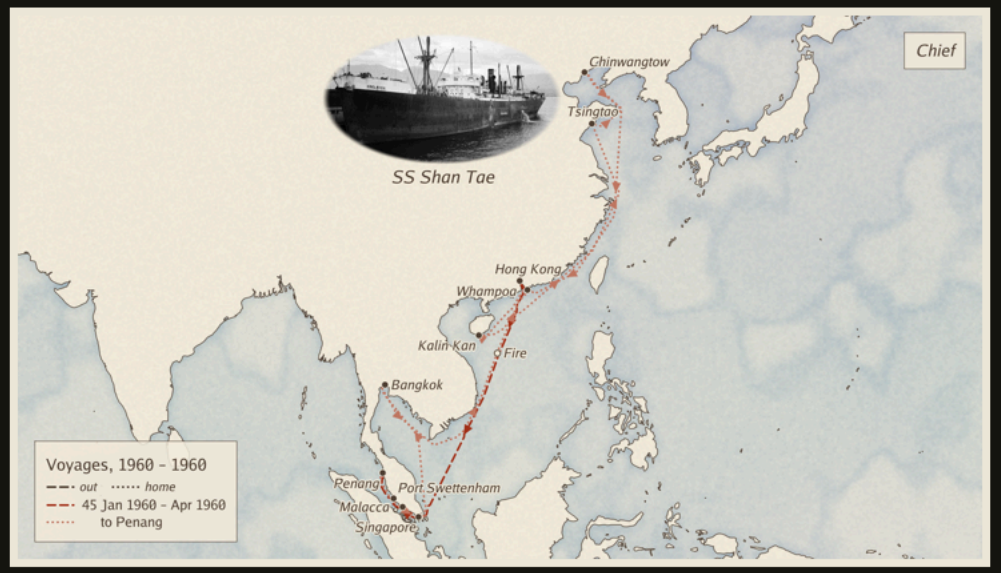




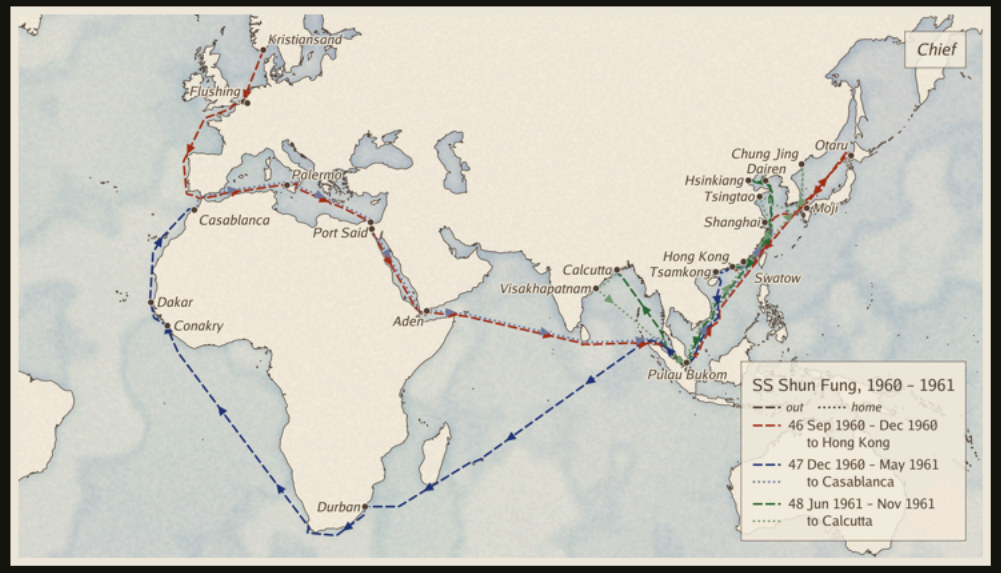
The China ships, 1959 to 1962 - Mao Great Leap Forward



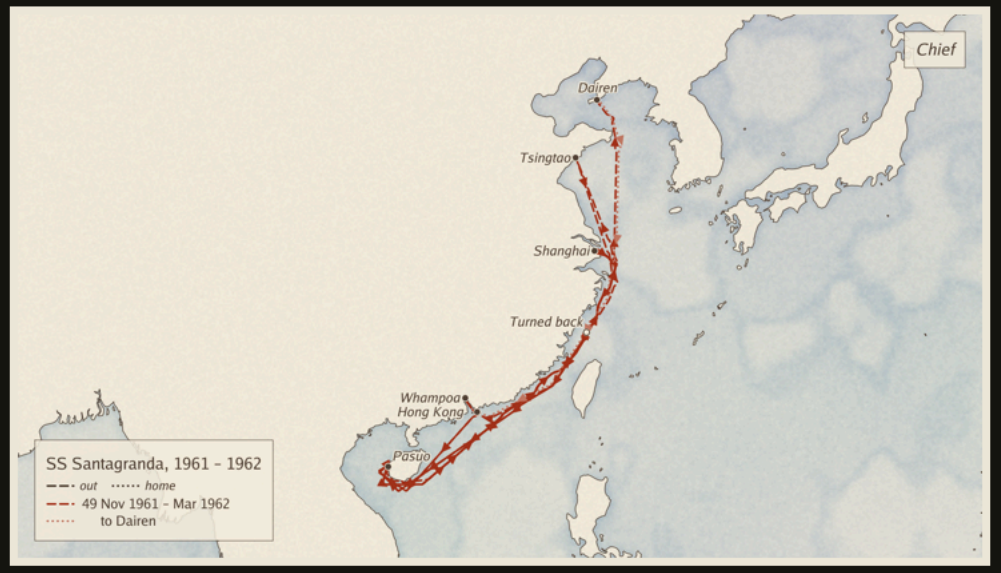
1 SS Grelrosa, 1959 - 1960



2 SS Shan Tae, 1960



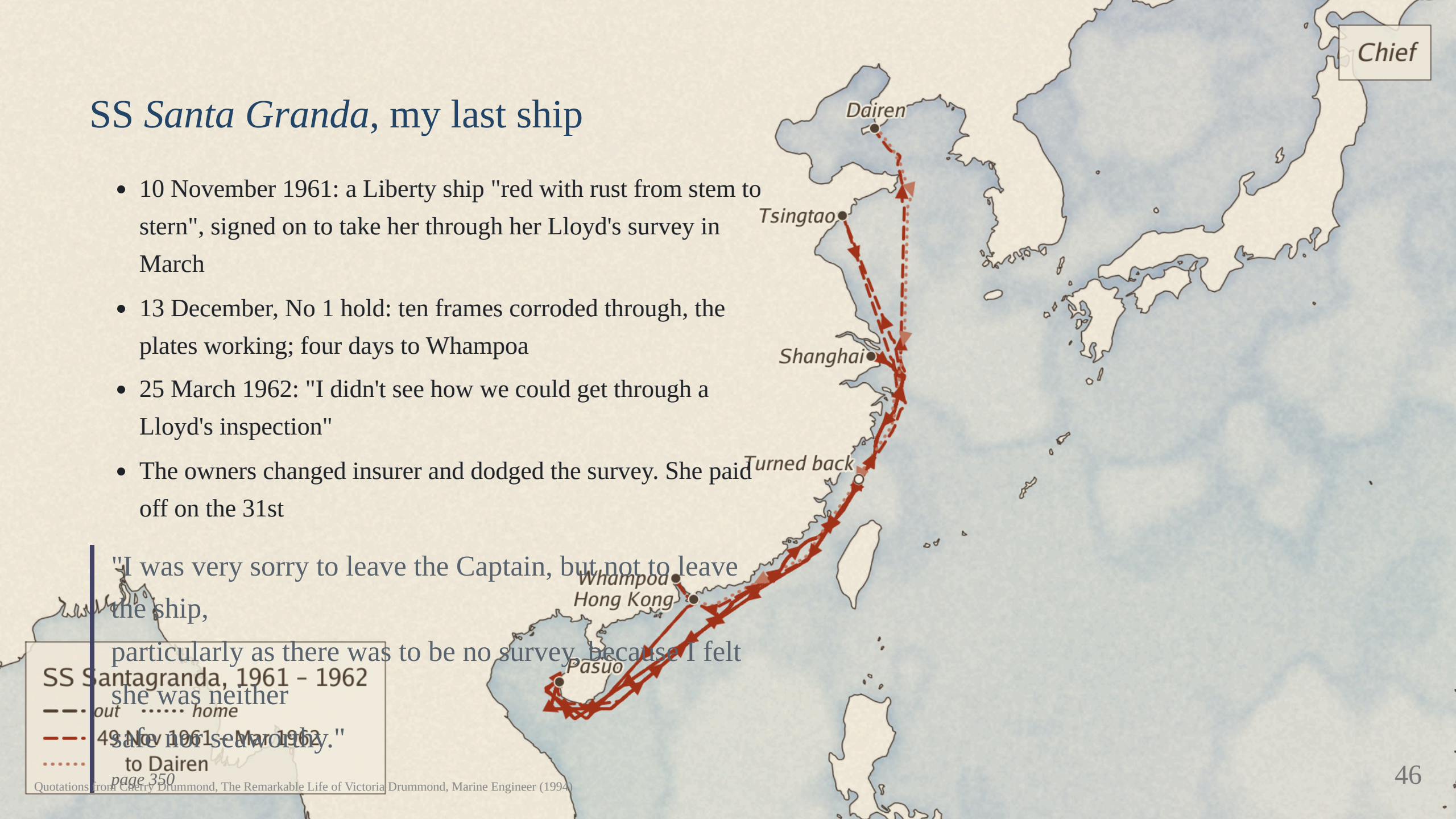
3 SS Shun Fung, 1960 - 1961



4 SS Santagranda, 1961 - 1962

SS *Santa Granda*, my last ship

- 10 November 1961: a Liberty ship "red with rust from stem to stern", signed on to take her through her Lloyd's survey in March
- 13 December, No 1 hold: ten frames corroded through, the plates working; four days to Whampoa
- 25 March 1962: "I didn't see how we could get through a Lloyd's inspection"
- The owners changed insurer and dodged the survey. She paid off on the 31st



"I was very sorry to leave the Captain, but not to leave the ship,

particularly as there was to be no survey because I felt she was neither safe nor seaworthy."

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)



0:00 / 0:08


Arrival at the church

If you were good at something and could be of useful service, then you should be allowed to do your job.

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)

Legacy

Victoria Drummond, First Woman Marine Engineer



Abertay University / Dundee Technical College

Inducted into the Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame, 2018

engineeringhalloffame.org/profile/victoria-alexandrina-drummond

Quotations from Cherry Drummond, The Remarkable Life of Victoria Drummond, Marine Engineer (1994)



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Thursday 15 October 2026

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Victoria Drummond Award

January 9th, 2012 by JCB
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The Victoria Drummond Award

> "An amazing woman with an amazing history."
>
> *Rachel Dunn, Admiralty Pilot*

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Victoria Drummond

Engineer

Born: Errol 1894 – Died: Sussex 1978

Victoria Drummond had a childhood fascination with marine engineering and went on to break many barriers for women, including becoming the first woman marine engineer in Britain.

Hall of Heroes, National Wallace Monument, Stirling

Victoria Drummond

6 languages

Contents hide

(Top)
Childhood
Apprenticeship
Early years at sea
Anchises
Mulbera
12 years ashore
Refugee children
World War II service
Har Zion
Bonita
Developments ashore
Czikos
Manchester Port
Danae II
Perseus
Karabagh
Post-war years
Jebshun Shipping Company

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Victoria Alexandrina Drummond, MBE(14 October 1894 – 25 December 1978), was the first woman marine engineerin the UK and the first woman member of Institute of Marine Engineers. In the Second World War she served at sea as an engineering officerin the British Merchant Navy, and received awards for bravery under enemy fire. Her career included service at sea with Blue Funnel Line, Manchester Liners, and Cunard-White Star Line, and ashore at Caledon Shipbuilding & Engineering Companyin Dundee.

During her engineering career, Drummond encountered both acceptance and prejudice because she was a woman. In 1926 she qualified as a second engineer, but no-one would sign her on as such, so she took work as a fifth engineer. From 1929 onwards she repeatedly sat the Board of Tradeexamination for promotion to chief engineer, but the BoT examiners repeatedly failed her, solely because she was a woman.

Victoria Alexandrina Drummond,
MBE

Remembered

- National Library of Scotland, 2013
- Abertay blue plaque, Dundee
- Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame, 2018
- Drummond Theatre, HMS Sultan, 2018

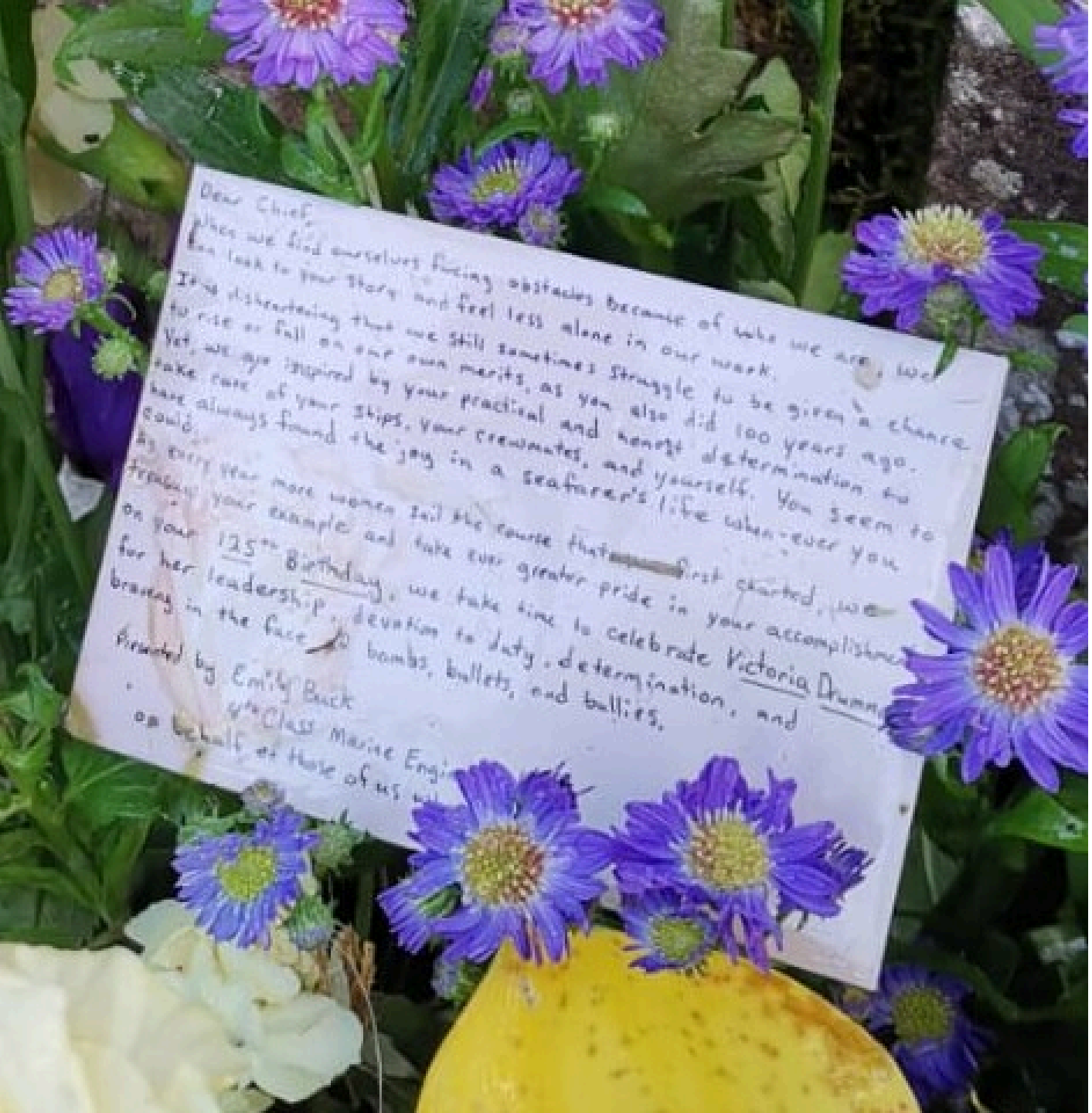
Drummond after receiving her MBE, July 1941

Born	14 October 1894 Errol, Scotland
Died	25 December 1978(aged 84) Burgess Hill, East Sussex



Her grave

The Chapel, Megginch Castle



Dear Chief,

> "… we take time to celebrate Victoria Drummond for her leadership, devotion to duty, determination, and bravery in the face of bombs, bullets, and bullies."

Emily Buck, 4th Class Marine Engineer, 2019

Victoria Drummond

First Woman Marine Engineer

